

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2005, claims 1-39 have been cancelled and claims 40-66 have been added. Claims 40-66 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On July 13, 2005, an interview was conducted between Attorneys for Applicant - Jason S. Feldmar and Georgann S. Grunebach and representatives from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office - Examiner James Sheleheda and Examiner Vivek Srivastava. Applicants appreciate the time and consideration taken by the Examiners in reviewing the file history and consulting with Applicants to advance the matter through prosecution.

A version of the above identified independent claims (in proposed form) were discussed in view of the previously cited prior art. Agreement was reached in that the above amendments overcome the previously cited art but require new search and/or consideration. Subsequent to the interview, further changes were made to the dependent claims set forth above. Specifically, further limitations were added to dependent claims 42, 51, and 60.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27-30, 32, 35, 37, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0055847 (Nakano) in view of Yamamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,166,778 (Yamamoto). In paragraph (3) of the Office Action, claims 7, 8, 20, 21, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano and Yamamoto as applied to claim 1, 14, and 27, and further in view of Hayward et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0023703 (Hayward). In paragraph (4) of the Office Action, claims 10, 23, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano and Yamamoto as applied to claims 9, 22, and 35, and further in view of Kuo, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0120615 (Kuo). In paragraph (5) of the Office Action, claims 13, 26, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Yamamoto and Yuen et al., WO 97/31479 (Yuen).

Applicants have cancelled the prior claims and have added new claims 40-66. The new claims address limitations relating to the transmission and receipt of subscriber renewal notices through a connection to the Internet (i.e. via an ISP) rather than receiving such notices via satellite broadcast transmission. Sending renewal notices over an ISP connection saves satellite bandwidth that may be made available for other broadcast information. Such claim language are supported in the originally filed specification and drawings (see page 2, lines 8-11; page 2, lines 25-30; page 14, lines 1-10; and FIGS. 1 and 5). In addition, Applicants note that the dependent claims provide further limitations. For example, claims 42, 51, and 60 specify that the subscriber renewal notice comprises service provider facility data that is used by the set top box on a monthly basis.

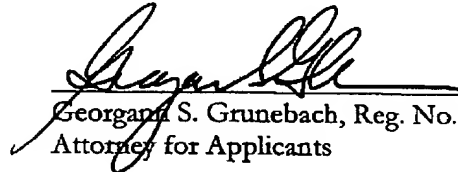
The limitations set forth in the new claims are clearly lacking from any and all of the cited references. In this regard, the cited references completely fail to teach, describe, or suggest, implicitly or explicitly, the use and transmission of subscriber renewal notices as set forth in the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 40, 49, and 58 are allowable over the cited art. Further, dependent claims 41-48, 50-57, and 59-66 are submitted to be allowable over the cited art in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 40, 49, and 58, respectively, and because they contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 41-48, 50-57, and 59-66 recite additional novel elements not shown by the cited art.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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